

January 30, 2025
Written Testimony
Prepared by Susan Williams
HB 2143

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Javadi, and Members of the Committee. My name is Susan Williams. I am a four year resident of the State of Oregon, however, in 2021 I was an Arizona resident and Chair of the Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners.

As one of our top Board initiatives during my two term tenure as Chair, our Board worked closely with stakeholders, including licensed acupuncturists (LAc), addiction treatment professionals, a recently retired Federal Court Judge (the honorable Charles Pyle) and others. Our Board developed and successfully pushed legislation through the Senate and House that both amended and clarified the role of acupuncture detoxification specialist (ADS) certification process as Senate Bill 1255, which was approved by the Governor of Arizona on May 4, 2021.

As such, I'm testifying and writing to you in support of Oregon House Bill 2143.

Although not identical to the legislation passed in Arizona, Oregon House Bill 2143 is substantially similar and can only benefit the residents of the State of Oregon. Since implementation, per David Geriminsky, the then, and current, Executive Director for the Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners, the number of ADSs has increased by 45.7% and in the 3-1/2 years since implementation, there have been **no consumer, or other, complaints filed with the Board.**

This truly is a "do no harm" form of treatment, that is:

- Easily learned by lay individuals
- Broadly accessible
- Administered in a wide ranging type of environments

This treatment can, and is, used for treating alcoholism, substance abuse, trauma & chemical dependency.

So how did I get so passionate about acupuncture detoxification or 5NP? Despite my privileged life, the opioid epidemic has touched me seven times with overdose deaths impacting people close to me, including a 3rd generation Army veteran, Staff Sergeant Craig Brennan, who was found lifeless, next to his two war dogs, from an opioid overdose. Through acupuncture training in Portland and researching Dr. Michael Smith and the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association, I became convinced that auricular acupuncture can be an important, even life-saving response, to the opioid crisis. Ever since I have been committed to expanding community access to this very safe, inexpensive, and humble treatment.

I sincerely urge you to vote in favor of HB 2143.

Thank you.